GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3375
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
SHORTAGE OF SIM CARD IN ORISSA
Oram Shri Jual

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total subscribers of landline and mobile telephone in orissa;

(b) whether the demand for landline telephone has declined after the induction of mobile telephone;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is a shortage of mobile sim card in the state; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Sir, the number of landline subscribers and mobile subscribers in Orissa as on 30-06-2005 is 7,66,391 and 7,78,478 respectively.

(b) & (c) A churn has been observed from wireline to wireless services among the telephone users. Subscribers are presently more inclined towards wireless services due to its advantage of mobility, flexibility and availability of number of value added services. This phenomenon is universal and not particular to Indian Telecom Scenario. There has been a healthy trend in telecom growth with wireless witnessing a higher growth compared to basis wireline services.

(d) & (e) The SIM cards are made available in adequate quantities commensurate with available capacity. Due to capacity constraints, release of BSNL`s prepaid cellular connections is temporarily controlled. BSNL is in the process of augmenting its cellular network by 5 lakh lines during 2005-06 and the Prepaid SIM cards are expected to be available on demand by the end of current financial year.